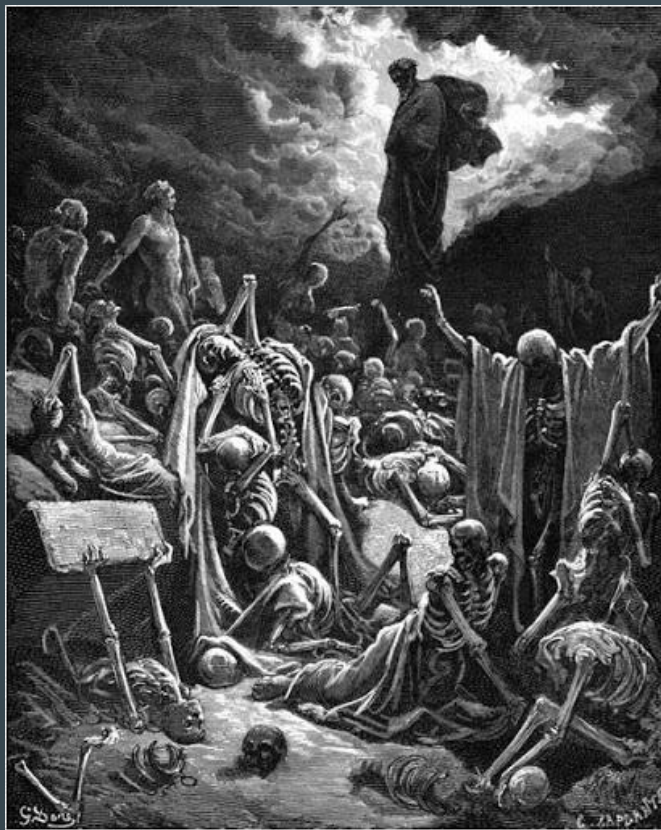


Apocalypticism

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She/Her/Hers



Dore, Gustav. "The Vision of the Valley of Dry Bones" in *The Bible Illustrations*. 1866.
<http://d338bbzow2rjo.cloudfront.net/dore/history1-bible28.html>

Base Understanding

Apocalypse - disclosure of heavenly secrets through visions, involving suffering and hardships within a religious group.

- A narrative of end-time events in accordance to a divine plan called an eschatology.

Eschatology - the part of theology concerned with death, judgment, and the final destiny of the soul and of humankind.

Contents of the Genre

- Heavenly works
- Astronomy
- History
- Human destiny

Originates from the Greek word “*apokalypsis*” meaning revelation and disclosure.

Genre versus Ideology

“Apocalypse” = a genre of revelatory literature containing a narrative framework.

“Apocalypticism” = an ideology referring to a social movement, system of thought, and spirituality.

Two categories of “apocalypse:”

- Apocalyptic eschatology - narrative
- Apocalypticism - social and religious movements surrounding the theology

Apocalyptic Literature

Author = Prophet

Subject matter = Prophecies and Visions

Subsequent Literature = Apocalypses

First use of the word “apocalypse” includes a definition that embraces visions, epistles, blessings, and a divine call to heaven found in the book of Revelation.

Literature continued

Other apocalypses include the Gospels, Daniel, Genesis, Isaiah, and the Books of Enoch.

- All have the underlying confirmation of divine intervention and a final judgement.
- Human life is ruled by the warring spirits of light and darkness.

Apocalyptic Eschatology

Core Idea: through prophecies, judgement of the current world would favor those of faith as they are the righteous and the other are the wicked.

Worldview: judgement beyond death and the influence of supernatural entities on human life through a transformation out of the present era.

Function of Apocalypticism

Social and religious movement that was meant as a way of coping with reality by providing a meaningful framework by which humans can make decisions.

Apocalypticism and Jesus

Matthew contains apocalyptic genre mentions through:

- Satan's testing
- Wisdom and parables
- Prophetic claims
- Apocalyptic visions and discourses
- Jesus' death and resurrection
- Jesus' fulfillment of prophecy

Matthew 8:11-12

“I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

- Hope.
- Restoration.
- Punishment.

Matthew 24 & 25

“Who then is the faithful and wise slave, whom his master has put in charge of his household, to give the other slaves their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. But if that wicked slave says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ and he begins to beat his fellow slaves, and eats and drinks with drunkards, the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know. He will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this...”

- Divide between those of faith and the wicked.
- Not everyone will be saved.

Apocalyptic Fulfillment

Apocalypticism in Matthew results in a fulfillment of prophecy where the faithful are saved and the faithless are cast aside.

It is therefore the vehicle that early Christians used to articulate their deepest convictions about the ultimate significance of Jesus Christ in the divine purposes.

Lasting Influence of Apocalypticism

Judaism holds an expectation of post-mortem reward and punishment.

Apocalypticism is more of a worldview and theology of thought and social interactions rather than the modern-day image of annihilation and an “end of the world.”

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